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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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April 20, 2005

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/557,139

FILING DATE: *March 26, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US05/10072*



Certified by

Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office

17364 U.S. PTO
032604

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV313042149US

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
Paul W.	Schneider	Oconomowoc, Wisconsin			
Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
FINGER FLICKER DEVICE					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number:		23598			
OR					
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		Boyle, Fredrickson, Newholm, Stein & Gratz, S.C.			
Address		250 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1030			
Address					
City	Milwaukee	State	WI	Zip	53202
Country	US	Telephone	414-225-9755	Fax	414-225-9753
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages 3		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number _____			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 7		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76.					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				FILING FEE Amount (\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.				\$80.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: 50-1170					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Andrew S. McConnell

TELEPHONE 414-225-9755

Date

REGISTRATION NO. 32,272

(If appropriate)

Docket Number: 1079.001

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Provisional Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Applicant: PAUL W. SCHNEIDER

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Dawn M. Oleszak March 26, 2004
Dawn M. Oleszak Date

17364 U.S. PTO
032604

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004 <small>Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</small>		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	Filing Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant Claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		First Named Inventor	Paul W. Schneider
		Examiner Name	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 80.00		Group Art Unit	
		Attorney Docket No.	1079.001

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)		FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																			
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The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application <input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.																																																																																																																																																																																					
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SUBMITTED BY		Complete (if applicable)	
Name (Print/Type)	Andrew S. McConnell	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,272
Signature	<i>Andrew S. McConnell</i>	Telephone	414-225-9755
		Date	3/26/04

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FINGER FLICKER DEVICE

Inventor: Paul W. Schneider

1
FINGER FLICKER DEVICE

A finger flicker device 10 is in the form of a generally planar body have oppositely facing surfaces 12, 14 and defining an outer edge 16. A specially configured recess 18 is formed in the body of device 10. Recess 18 is configured to receive the tip of a user's finger F, for use in propelling device 10 through the air.

Recess 18 includes an arcuate edge 20, and defines an undercut area 22 which functions to form a hook section 24 on the body of device 10 adjacent the entrance to recess 18. Hook section 24 terminates in a pointed end 26.

On the opposite side of recess 18 from hook section 24, the body of device 10 has a split finger engagement section 28, which is located forwardly of a boundary 30 that extends generally tangentially to the innermost extent of recess edge 20.

Split finger engagement section 28 has a cleft construction, defining a pair of wings 32, 34 located forwardly of boundary 30. Representatively, device 10 may be formed of a pair of layers of resilient material that are laminated together throughout the entire surface area of the body of device 10, with the exception of the area of split finger engagement section 28. It is understood that this is but one possible construction of device 10, and that device 10 may be formed in any manner that defines a planar construction throughout its surface area with the exception of split finger engagement section 28, such that split finger engagement section 28 may be formed in any manner and joined to the remainder of the body of device 10. It is contemplated that the laminated construction of the body of device 10 as described provides a relatively simple and inexpensive means for forming split finger engagement section 28, and which is well suited for mass production.

Wings 32, 34 are resilient and flexible, which enables wings 32, 34 to be spread apart and to then return at least partially together. Again, this feature is satisfactorily provided by the integral formation of wings 32, 34 with the remainder of the body of device 10. Representatively, the laminated layers of the body of device 10 may be formed of any satisfactory resilient thermoplastic material, although it is understood that any other satisfactory material may be employed.

In use, device 10 is adapted to be engaged with a user's finger F, which is then used to propel device 10 through the air. To accomplish this, the user places the tip of his or her finger into recess 18, so that end 26 of hook section 24 engages the user's fingernail. Finger engagement section 28 engages the opposite surface of the user's fingertip. Wings 32, 34 of finger engagement section 28 are spread apart, so that wings 32, 34 engage opposite sides of the user's fingertip opposite hook section 24. With this arrangement, wings 32, 34 function to stabilize device 10 on the user's fingertip. The user then places his or her hand so that the user's palm faces upwardly, and curls the finger F back toward the wrist, while maintaining device 10 in engagement with the fingertip. The user then engages the thumb with finger F alongside device 10, and subsequently flicks the finger F by quickly straightening finger F and disengaging the thumb from finger F. Such quick and rapid movement of finger F functions to dislodge device 10 from the tip of finger F, and device 10 is then propelled through the air. The generally planar configuration of the majority of the surface area of device 10 enables device 10 to travel a significant distance through the air.

It is contemplated that the overall shape of device 10 may vary from that as shown. That is, the overall shape of device 10 defined by outer edge 16 may take any form other than that as shown and described, e.g. a generally round shape, an oblong shape, etc. A round shape may be formed so that device 10 may represent the outline of a baseball, basketball, soccer ball, etc., with appropriate graphics applied to the opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10. An oblong shape may be provided so that device 10 can resemble a football, again with appropriate graphics applied to the opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10. Any other satisfactory shape may be provided for the overall configuration of device 10, and representative shapes of device 10 are illustrated. In all configurations, however, device 10 includes recess 18 that defines hook section 24, as well as split finger engagement section 28 so as to facilitate engagement of device 10 with the user's fingertip.

It can thus be appreciated that opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10 present surfaces that are well suited for application of graphics or printed information, so that device 10 may be used as a vehicle for promotion or advertising.

3
CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A device adapted to be propelled by a finger of a user, comprising:
a generally planar body defining an outer edge;
a recess formed in the outer edge, wherein the recess includes an undercut
section and wherein the body is formed so as to define a hook section adjacent the undercut
5 section of the recess; and
wherein a portion of the body adjacent the recess, opposite the hook section,
comprises a finger engagement section defining a pair of wings, wherein the wings are
resilient and are capable of being spread apart;
wherein the tip of a user's finger is engageable within the recess, wherein the
10 hook section of the body engages one side of the user's finger and wherein the finger
engagement section of the body engages an opposite side of the user's finger, wherein the
wings of the finger engagement section are adapted to be spread apart so as to stabilize the
body on the user's finger.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the body is formed of a pair of layers that
are laminated together except in the area of the finger engagement section, wherein the
layers in the finger engagement section define the pair of wings.

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